



MEDICAL MINUTE

Vol. 3, No. 10

Serving the members of Tripler Army Medical Center and Pacific Regional Medical Command

November 2002



Photos by Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan

A ghoulishly good time

Above, Mercedes Santana, 8, waits patiently as Jessica Santiago touches up her face paint. Members of the Tripler Army Medical Center ohana volunteered their time and skills Oct. 29 and 30 to put on a Haunted House and Harvest Festival at Tripler's Physical Fitness Center. At left, one of the haunted house props greets visitors at the entrance. For more on the events, check out page 6.



LDR rooms to undergo renovations

Heather Paynter

TAMC Public Affairs Office

In the spring of 2003, Tripler Army Medical Center will unveil the first phase of its new Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology (OB/GYN) Labor and Delivery project on the 6th Floor, F Wing with new Labor/Delivery/Recovery (LDR) rooms.

"We are aiming for more family-centered care," said Lt. Col. Nancy Hughes, project manager for the newly renovated Labor and Delivery wing and director of the OB/GYN Nursing Section.

Remodeled LDR rooms will be larger and filled with color-coordinated furniture packages, a small table with chairs and a sleeper chair. Jacuzzis are also being installed in the rooms to help ease labor pains.

Construction began Oct. 21 and according to Project Engineer Brad Scully, current space should be sufficient to complete the goal of four remodeled LDR rooms by May. "We are going into existing room space and hallway space in order to increase room size," he said. "We are pushing hard to complete the new LDR rooms quickly, to provide a much improved delivery experience for families."

The project has been in the planning stages since June. Further renovations will continue following the completion of the first phase.

Along with improved LDR rooms, the clinic is aiming at putting an emphasis on continuity. "We are going to a

See **LDR PROJECT**, page 4

FEEDBACK

A place to voice your opinion

What stories have you heard about Tripler's unique paint job?



Sgt. Henry Fernandez, Ward 6B1 — "I heard that the original order for the paint was off by one number. When the wrong paint arrived, they just went ahead and painted it pink."

Cynthia Chun, Department of Medicine

— "I heard that they used pink because the hospital was surrounded by red dirt, and it was the easiest cover up color."



Lt. Smoke Smith, Provost Marshal's Office

— "I heard that they had ordered red and white paint, but not enough of either to paint it one color. So they mixed the two together and got pink."

Denise Deocares, Center Judge Advocate's Office

— "I heard that Tripler was painted to match the red dirt around the hospital. Over time, though, the sun faded the color to look pink."



Spc. Elena Malautea, Ward 6B1

— "I heard that they ran out of red and white paint, and pink paint was on sale."

COMMENTARY

Tripler History 101: Can you distinguish fact from fiction

Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan

Editor

If you've worked at Tripler Army Medical Center for more than a week or even been on the island that long, you've probably heard stories about our wonderful 'pink palace.' From tales about Tripler being built backwards and being bombed during the Pearl Harbor attack to the origins of its eye-catching paint job, it can sometimes be hard to distinguish fact from fiction.

So let's take a few minutes to brush up on our Tripler history. Come on, it'll be fun. You'll laugh; you'll cry; it'll be better than ... OK, I give up.

In the beginning ...

Tripler wasn't always in the building we're in today. The first Army hospital on the island was actually out of a renovated dance pavilion on King Street around 1898. In 1907, a post hospital opened up on the Army's newest installation, Fort Shafter. Located about a mile from Tripler's current location, the hospital was made up of several two-story buildings connected by walkways. The War Department designated this hospital as Tripler General Hospital in 1920 in honor of Brevet Brig. Gen. Charles Stuart Tripler, a 19th century medical department officer and veteran of three wars.

The attack on Pearl Harbor

It was the Fort Shafter facility that was in place on Dec. 7, 1941 when Japan made its infamous attack on Pearl Harbor. Tripler's staff of 38 physicians, 76 nurses and 247 enlisted personnel were overwhelmed with casualties. It was reported that Tripler's three operating rooms handled

two cases per minute for the first three hours following the attack. As staff desperately tried to save lives inside, bullets from Japanese planes rained down on the facility adding to the chaos. Of the more than 330 casualties admitted to Tripler during the first few hours of the attack, only 13 died. Another 138 casualties were brought to Tripler but were dead on arrival.

For its pivotal role in saving lives and the hostile fire it received Dec. 7, 1941, Tripler became the first medical center in the Department of Defense to receive a battle streamer.

Following the attack and continuing throughout World War II, Tripler's daily census averaged around 2,000 patients. In order to care for all the patients, the Army leased various public institutions such as Farrington High School and Kamehameha School for Girls to help expand its capacity.

The new Tripler ... no, it wasn't built backwards

Due to the number of casualties Tripler received during the war, it was decided a new, larger facility was needed. After a couple years of planning, ground was broken on Moanalua Ridge in 1944, and the new Tripler (wings A through E) opened its doors to patients Aug. 9, 1948. (Wings F through H were opened in 1985.)

There have been many stories about the hospital being built backwards. The tale normally goes something like this: Just as construction on Tripler was beginning, the head architect was called back to the Mainland for a family emergency. Since he traveled by boat, he was absent from the building process for quite some time (usually a few months). By the time the archi-

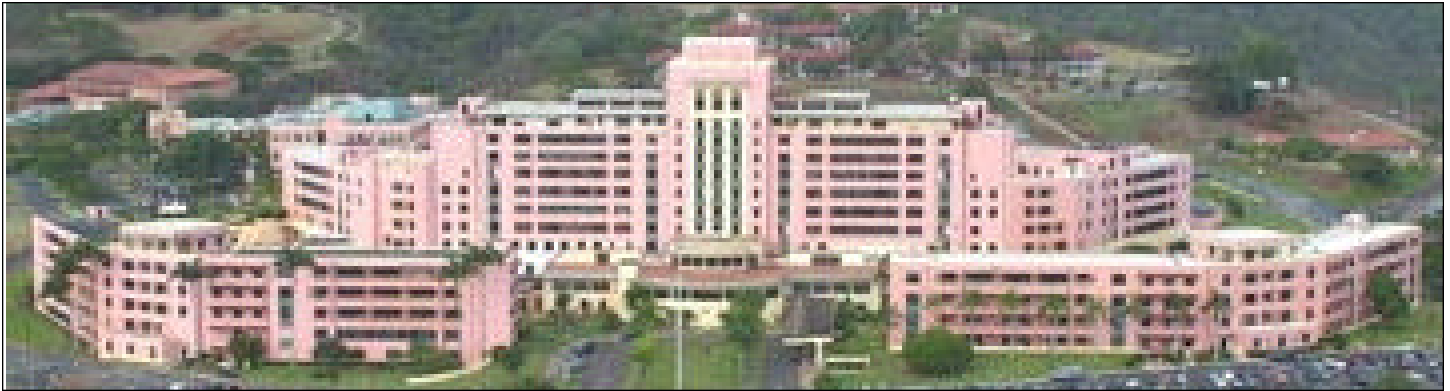
See **HISTORY**, page 3

Medical Minute

<http://www.tamc.amedd.army.mil>

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Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan

Did you know that only the oceanside portion (wings A through E) opened in 1948? Wings F-H opened in 1985.

HISTORY: Decision behind choice of paint revealed

Continued from page 2

tect got back to Oahu, the frame was complete. He was horrified to see the workers had misinterpreted the blueprints and built Tripler backwards. ...Sometimes the story ends right there, but I've also heard the architect was so distraught over his masterpiece being ruined that he committed suicide and his ghost still lurks on the twelfth floor. (We don't have a twelfth floor.)

Now that some of you are probably a little creeped out, put your mind at ease – this story isn't true (well ... that we know of anyway). There's actually a reason Tripler was built like this. If you look at Tripler from above, it kind of looks like wings D and E are airplane wings. This was an aerodynamic feature that helped keep the building cool by catching the trade winds coming off the Koolau mountains behind Tripler. (You know – since there was no air conditioning back then.)

What's the deal with the pink paint?

In my close to three years here at Tripler, the saga of how Tripler got its signature color is probably the most popular topic we are asked about in the Public Affairs Office.

For many years, no one really knew for sure how the color was decided. Rumors ran rampant ... I've heard that the engineers wanted a color that would stand out in case the island was ever bombed again or that they chose it because pink is just pretty.

My favorite and the most creative of the different versions is that the hospital was supposed to be blue (or white), but a young supply specialist reversed a few numbers on the paint ordering

form, and Tripler ended up with thousands of gallons of pink paint. Unable to send the paint back, officials decided just to paint the hospital pink until the paint ran out.

Well, the real story behind the choice of colors is a bit more practical. After years and years of speculation, relatives of retired Col. Robert B. Wood, who was the Army Corps of Engineers area engineer when Tripler was built, talked Wood into coming forward with the real story.

During an interview on a local newscast in 1995, Wood explained that they chose a color that would closely match the red dirt that covered the land around the hospital.

"You've got to get it as close to that color as you can because that's the color it will be when you're through," Wood said during the newscast. With the winds blowing the dirt around, they figured it would be a terra cotta, pinkish color no matter what color they chose. Might as well make it blend in and not look dirty, I guess.

By the way, the actual color of Tripler is not pink – it's rose coral.

For those of you interested in learning more about Tripler's fascinating history, stop by the Oceanside or Mountainside Information Desk or the Public Affairs Office in 1A101A for a Tripler anniversary booklet. The booklet highlights important events that have occurred at Tripler over the years. If you have a specific question regarding Tripler, call the Public Affairs Office at 433-5785.

CSM's HANDSHAKE OF CONCERN



November
"Effective
communication"

FROM THE EDITOR

Medical Minute goes on hiatus

After more than two and a half years in production, I am sad to say the future of Tripler's *Medical Minute* is unclear.

My days here at Tripler are numbered, and the November issue will be my last. With no replacement editor in site, the monthly publication will go on hiatus until further notice.

In the meantime, feel free to check out

Tripler's website at www.tamc.amedd.army.mil under the 'headlines' heading for the latest and greatest on what's happening at Tripler.

I also would like to say a quick 'thank you' to all those I've bothered over the past few years — whether it was by asking stupid questions, taking photos or bribing staff members to do the 'question of the month.'

— Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan
Editor, *Medical Minute*

Tripler celebrates OR Nurses Week

Capt. Suellyn Masek

TAMC Department of Surgery

When you are faced with the prospect of surgery, it is important to know that you can rely on the skills, knowledge and expertise of periOperative Registered Nurses. These nurses, also known as Operating Room (OR) nurses, care for patients before, during and after a surgical procedure.

The Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN) is proud to honor these healthcare professionals during periOperative Nurse Week Nov. 10-16. This year's theme, "periOperative Nurses: Your safety is our job ... We take it seriously," conveys the message that OR nurses have a long tradition of working toward patient safety and improving the quality of patient care.

Tripler Army Medical Center celebrated the week by recognizing the unique contribution OR nurses play on the healthcare team. A display was set up in



1st Lt. Lillian Close

Tripler Operating Room nurses, Capt. Amy Hadsall (left) and Hannah Kuphiea, prepare supplies for surgery Nov. 6.

the Oceanside lobby throughout the week, and an OR nurse was on-hand to answer visitors' questions.

For more information about the OR staff, visit surgery.tamc.amedd.army.mil/or/orhome.htm on Tripler's Intranet.

Upcoming Events

Nov. 27 — Troop Command Bowling Tournament, Hickam Bowling Center

Nov. 28 — Thanksgiving; TAMC Dining Facility open 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for Thanksgiving Meal

Nov. 29 — Training Holiday

Dec. 3, 6 p.m. — Tripler Tree Lighting Ceremony, Tripler flagpole

Dec. 6, 6 p.m. — Holiday Ball, Renaissance Ilikai Waikiki

Dec. 7 — TAMC Children's Christmas Party

Dec. 24 — Training Holiday

Dec. 25 — Christmas



LDR PROJECT: More options for women

Continued from page 1

team concept," Hughes said. "Mothers will have an assigned team of OB providers throughout their prenatal care."

All staff physicians providing obstetrical care are fully credentialed and are either board-certified or board-eligible with their national organizations. In addition to six OB/GYN generalists, there are seven subspecialists in a variety of areas including providing care for women with high-risk pregnancies, infertility, GYN oncology (cancer), and urology/gynecology (pelvic/bladder problems). The OB/GYN department also has several Women's Health Nurse Practitioners and Certified Nurse Midwives. Women may also choose the option of being followed through their pregnancy by their Family Practice physician. Currently Family Practice sees obstetrical patients at Tripler, Schofield Barracks, Kaneohe Bay and Pearl Harbor. Tripler is also one of the few island medical facilities to have a NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care

Unit) with a neonatologist available 24 hours per day.

"The care here is documented to be absolutely outstanding," said Marsha Graham, Tripler's chief of Clinical Quality Services. Mandatory data is collected quarterly from military and civilian hospitals that have OB services as a large aspect of the facility's care. Hospitals are mandated to have a third-party agency collect the data.

"The aspects of care that are monitored include the cesarean section rate, infant birth complications and low birth weight babies," Graham said. "There are so few low birth weights and complications here, it is remarkable."

The typical post-delivery stay is 36-48 hours and new moms should feel at home in postpartum rooms that are being updated with new paint, pictures, curtains, linens and furniture. Tripler is also moving toward all private, in-patient postpartum rooms.

Mothers must be eligible beneficiaries to deliver at Tripler and should call 433-5936 for more information.



Heather Paynter

TEA ANYONE?

Tracy Rasmussen, Tripler's Surgical Oncology nurse practitioner, places a hat on 6-year-old Sara Wilhelm during a tea party Nov. 6 in Tripler's Uphouse Learning Center. Tripler staff members put on the dress-up tea party for girls whose mothers are receiving chemotherapy at Tripler.

GREAT AMERICAN SMOKE OUT



Nov. 21, 2002

ICE survey a hot way to communicate

Margaret Tippy

TAMC Public Affairs Officer

It's almost fun, definitely easy and customer friendly to use. ICE or the Interactive Customer Evaluation survey available on the Internet is an efficient and easy-to-use tool that can improve communication between Tripler Army Medical Center and Schofield Barracks Health Clinic staff and patients, said Deb-B Kamisato, Tripler's Customer Satisfaction coordinator.

The process is simple. Patients who have a positive, negative or neutral comment about clinics, staff or offices at either location may simply go directly to <http://ice.disa.mil> and select Pacific, Schofield Barracks or Tripler. Or go to Tripler's web page at www.tamc.amedd.army.mil and click on Services, and then "Interactive Customer Evaluation."

From there, the patient may choose a category of a service provider, fill out a short customer comment card and type in remarks, Kamisato said. Each Tripler and Schofield clinic or service provides a short description of what services they offer so the customer knows they're in the correct location to leave comments. Customers just need to click on the "exclamation mark" to the right of the service name for more information. In addition, there is a short sentence at the top of the comment card about the service.

The beauty of the system is that the Patient Representative Office (PRO) staff and the designated service will be notified within 22 minutes by e-mail that a customer has filled out a comment card, she said. The e-mail also tells those receiving it whether the comment is positive or negative.

It is optional for the customer to provide contact information. If they do, the PRO staff then responds within two working days to the customer.

To date, more than 100 clinical and administrative departments have signed on to the system with managers, Kamisato said. Other Tripler areas that would like to be a part of ICE should

contact Kamisato at 433-1081 or send her an e-mail on Outlook.

One point Kamisato wants to stress is if a customer sends comments to the wrong clinic or department, she can fix the problem so that it doesn't count incorrectly towards that clinic or department. Reports on how each service is doing are available once the clinic or department has been live for six months.

"Naturally, we encourage compliments," she said laughing. The comment card consists of six generic questions, five additional Tripler clinical questions, and then the individual department or clinic may add four to six specific questions about their area.

"We don't want the customer to have to fill out too many comments," Kamisato said. Another big plus for customers is a block at the end of the comment card that allows them to write in their comments.

Schofield Barracks Health Clinics are the primary test sites for the program. Lt. Col. Terry Walsh, the deputy commander for Administration at the clinics, said his staff is ready to go live.

"We will have computer terminals placed strategically in kiosks," Walsh said. "Currently sites scheduled to receive the kiosks include Pharmacy, Family Practice Clinic, Troop Medical Clinic, Acute Care Clinic and Physical Therapy Clinic."

"We are actually on the Internet now but are still working on getting the kiosks in place around the clinic areas," he said. Tripler also plans to offer customers kiosks in designated areas.

ICE is an excellent way to gauge what the customer wants and needs, Kamisato said. It's available to anyone with an Internet browser 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"We have received responses even though we haven't advertised yet," she said.

"We hope many of our customers will take the time to use this useful tool and tell us what we are doing right and where they see we need to improve," she said.



Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan

An odd character waits outside the Tripler Gym for more patrons to arrive at Tripler's Haunted House Oct. 29.



Heather Paynter

Ethan Tucker, 4, puts the finishing touches on a pumpkin during Tripler's Harvest Festival.

Haunted House, Harvest Festival raise money for ACS program

Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan

Editor

From ghouls and zombies to pony rides and a magic show, there was something for just about everyone at Tripler Army Medical Center's Haunted House and Harvest Festival Oct. 29 and 30.

Thanks to the efforts of about 100 volunteers from the Tripler ohana, the events raised more than \$2,300 for Army Community Service's Christmas Basket Program, which provides Christmas dinner for junior enlisted families experiencing financial difficulties.

"We had a really devoted group of folks help out," said Master Sgt. Rene Kinsey, NCOIC of the Nutrition Care Division, who was coordinator of the haunted house. "It wasn't so much that they were devoted to

Halloween as to having fun. And they had a lot of fun with this thing."

The haunted house, which was housed in Tripler Physical Fitness Center's gymnasium, was comprised of eight theme rooms. Each theme room was sponsored by a Tripler department or section, which then was responsible for designing the area, creating props and manning the room during the two "show" nights.

After nearly three months of organizing and preparing the haunted house, Kinsey said by the day of the event he was exhausted, but seeing the enthusiasm among the volunteers really gave him a boost.

"Watching everybody get so excited and seeing the effort they put into this was just amazing," Kinsey said. "I'm really proud of

See **EVENTS**, page 7



Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan

Pfc. Kenny Duckworth of the Department of Radiology eyes his next victims in Tripler's haunted house Oct. 30.



Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan

Sgt. Dustin Waggoner, a Tripler staff member and magician, shows a trick to a crowd of young festival-goers.

EVENTS: Chills, thrills for all

Continued from page 6

the different divisions that participated."

Not only was Kinsey thrilled with their final product, but many of the 800-plus visitors to the haunted house also seemed to enjoy the volunteers' hard work.

"It scared me," said Spc. Courtney Holmes, a medical specialist in Tripler's Family Practice Clinic. "They really did an excellent job."

The following were the Tripler departments that sponsored a room in the haunted house and the theme of their room:

* **Military Personnel Division** -- "The Walking Dead" * **Dept. of Psychology/Mental Health** -- "Graveyard" * **Department of Medicine** -- "The asylum" * **Dept. of Surgery** -- "Scream Room" * **Medical Company C** -- "Hannibal Lector" * **Dept. of Pathology** -- "Morgue" * **Obstetrics/Gynecology** -- "Manson House" * **Dept. of Radiology** -- "Halloween Images"

While the haunted house rattled some visitors, the harvest festival was a tad tamer with numerous games and activities aimed at the younger crowd. Children had their choice of creating crafts, getting their face painted, watching a magic show, riding a pony or fishing for prizes among other activities.

Staff Sgt. Nancy Rivera, harvest festival coordinator, said the festival was a great success thanks to the many volunteers who gave up their time by manning a booth or donating candy or baked items for the cake walk and other games.

She said the festival was even more of an accomplishment considering that this was the first year Tripler has held such an event.

"Now that we have a baseline, next year should be a double success with an even greater turnout," said Rivera, who added that people were already asking about next year's event.



Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan

Katarina and Blake Sanborn wait for their mother, Sgt. 1st Class Elva Sanborn, to take their photo at the Harvest Festival Oct. 30.

Annual dental exams a must

Heather Paynter

TAMC Public Affairs Office

It is a mandatory issue of readiness and one that may bring a heavy sigh to those on the "list." The annual dental exam seems to come around so fast, but without a set of healthy teeth, mission readiness and more importantly, overall personal health, may be threatened.

Col. Henry Waddell, commander of the Pacific Regional Dental Command (PRDC), oversees dental activities at the U.S. Army Dental Activity – Japan at Camp Zama; Okinawa's Dental Activity; Tripler Army Medical Center's Dental Clinic and the Schofield Barracks Dental Clinic. "I'm proud to say our region is at 97-98 percent readiness," he said.

Readiness is defined as patients being grouped into either Class 1 or Class 2 categories. Class 1 means no dental treatment is required and Class 2 means a dental emergency is unlikely to occur with 12 months.

To ensure positive results with patients as well as to check on the well-being of soldiers and civilians stationed in Japan and Okinawa, Waddell receives monthly and quarterly reports. He also travels to his areas of responsibility to meet with local commanders and to address concerns on a face-to-face basis.

With so many responsibilities, Waddell needs a top-notch staff to care for other important issues and a variety of other things requiring attention on a day-to-day basis. Handling many of these matters, as well as caring for the soldiers in his command, is the Command's 1st Sgt. Gerald Weigle. In addition to mentoring, training and handling dental clinic responsibilities, he also must address the issues unique to the dental field.

"When we train soldiers here, we have to make sure they will be able to go anywhere in the world and do their job well," Weigle said.

He encourages his soldiers to take college and military courses and tracks their progress in a continuing education program at the clinic. This hands-on program allows soldiers, E-1 to E-9, the opportunity to become certified as dental technicians giving them a greater field of knowledge from which to benefit, whether they leave the Army or choose to stay.

Maj. Andrea Taliaferro is the PRDC executive officer and focuses on the nuts and bolts of running a regional command. Issues such as "directing and managing logistics, supply, personnel and managing the budget."

Her responsibilities also include personnel management and readiness for 98 military and 68 civilian personnel from throughout the region.

Though PRDC staff works hard to ensure its primary mission of dental readiness, they also work hard to be good neighbors.



Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan

Maj. Deepti Chitnis of Tripler's Dental Clinic gives Sgt. 1st Class John Kaai an annual dental exam.

"We offer something back to the community," Waddell said.

Opportunities for civilians to gain experience in the dental field are offered through a Red Cross volunteer program and also through a dental assistant's internship program at a local community college.

"We take them through all the specialties," Waddell said.

Waddell likes the command aspect of his job, but continues to practice comprehensive dentistry – the family practice of dentistry – twice a week at Tripler and once a week at Schofield Barracks. He is also thankful for the backing the command receives on a daily basis.

"We are fortunate to have the Chief of the Army Dental Corps (Maj. Gen. Joseph G. Webb Jr.) double-hatted as hospital commander," Waddell said. "We get great support from the hospital."

"We also have a lot of great soldiers," he said, "and they do lots of great things every day."

To make an appointment with the Tripler Army Dental Clinic, call 433-5370 and to make an appointment at the Schofield Barracks Dental Clinic, call 433-8903/8904. The clinics are staffed to treat active duty patients only. Family members are encouraged to enroll in the TRICARE Dental Program. For more information on the program, view United Concordia's web site at www.ucci.com or call (800) 866-8499.

Automated Clinical Practice Guidelines

Project improves patient care, helps providers

Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan

Editor

Finding ways to improve patient care but at the same time making healthcare providers' jobs a little easier can be a difficult task; however, a new project in the works at Tripler Army Medical Center is already showing that it can be done.

The Automated Clinical Practice Guidelines (ACPG) project is designed to assist healthcare providers in the management of their patients while not adding to their already heavy workload, according to Lt. Col. Paulette Williams, the project's clinical director with the Pacific Telehealth and Technology Hui.

In 1998, the Department of Defense in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs initiated the development of clinical practice guidelines for military medicine. CPGs are joint standards of care for certain diseases based on existing national standards and latest advances in treatment.

Currently, there are 15 CPGs covering conditions such as asthma, diabetes, depression and low back pain. Each guideline comes with a toolkit containing algorithms of the guideline, posters, documentation and patient education materials. Each primary care clinic receives a binder on each of the health conditions.

With the aCPG project, a user-friendly computer system known as the aCPG Desktop allows healthcare providers to have that same information at the touch of a few buttons.

"The aCPG Desktop gives healthcare providers a global view of a patient's condition in just one place, without having to go to several locations to get the informa-

tion they need," Williams said. "Providers can view vital signs, lab and radiology results, master problem list, medications, allergies, and previous inpatient and outpatient notes."

Not only can healthcare providers view patient information with the aCPG Desktop, they can also enter notes from the patient visit.

"The goal is when the patient's visit is complete, the documentation is complete," said Williams. The aCPG system is connected to CHCS (Composite Health Care System), which means all information entered in the aCPG Desktop is stored in CHCS and can be retrieved from anywhere within Tripler's network.

The Desktop incorporates CPG guidelines displaying a summary and reminders related to a patient's specific medical condition.

Diabetes and tobacco use cessation CPGs are the first to be automated. The aCPG Desktop automatically tracks patients with diabetes for a number of monitored items such as hemoglobin A1c testing, eye exams, foot exams, blood pressure and other specific tests related to the condition. In addition, the providers can print reminder letters that are sent to patients who are due for certain tests or appointments.

According to Williams, additional CPGs will be automated over time. Depression and uncomplicated pregnancy guidelines are two that are currently in the works.

Currently, Tripler's Family Practice Clinic and Adult Medicine Clinic are testing the aCPG Desktop, and most providers have only good things to say about the new system.

"I love the program. It's so easy," said

Capt. Debra Sullivan, a nurse practitioner in Tripler's Family Practice Clinic. "All the information you need on the patient is right in front of you."

She said she sees a huge difference with the aCPG and doesn't think she ever wants to go back to the previous method of completing notes. "It (the aCPG Desktop) saves me huge amounts of time with charts," Sullivan said.

Another feature of the aCPG system is an automated survey device called the Point of View (POV). The POV is a tool that allows patients to complete surveys prior to seeing the healthcare provider. Currently the POV has a diabetic survey, which diabetic patients complete prior to seeing their provider. Soon the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) screening questions will be added to the tool. The device takes patients' answers from the survey and adds them to the aCPG Desktop for providers to view.

Two other features expected soon are the ability to transfer patients' vital signs directly into the aCPG Desktop from the vital signs monitor and a personal digital assistant (PDA) that patients can take home and electronically enter glucose, blood pressure and lipid readings. The readings entered into the PDA by the patient at home are downloaded into the aCPG desktop. The PDA feature is another research project directed Dr. Blain Yoshinobu, Tripler's clinical investigational pharmacist.

The aCPG research project, which began in 1999, is expected to last until 2004.

"When the study is complete, it will be decided if this is something we want to implement in every department at Tripler and possibly DoD wide," Williams said.

MINISTRY MOMENT: DMPC sets holiday schedule

Special holiday services and programs

Thanksgiving Day Mass — Nov. 27, 9 a.m.

Hanging of the Greens — Nov. 30, 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Children's Mass — Dec. 24, 5 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candle Light Service — Dec. 24, 7 p.m.

A Festival of Carols and Mass — Dec. 24, 11 p.m.

Christmas Day Mass — Dec. 25, 10 a.m.

New Year's Day Mass — Jan. 1, 11 a.m.

Regular Chapel Worship Schedule

Catholic services

Monday through Friday -- noon

Saturday -- 5 p.m.

Sunday -- 11 a.m.

Protestant services

Sunday -- 9 a.m.

For other religious groups, call 433-5727.

* The **hospital chapel** is located on the third floor, D wing in the Department of Ministry and Pastoral Care.
* A **meditation chapel** for personal prayer and devotion is open 24 hours a day on the sixth floor, room 007.

Nurses undergo refresher skills training



Margaret Tippy

Margaret Tippy

TAMC Public Affairs Officer

By 10 a.m., more than 60 nurses were already working their way through the skills stations on the 10th floor at Tripler Army Medical Center's Annual Clinical Competency Evaluations at Tripler Army Medical Center Oct. 9 and 12. All healthcare professionals must stay current in clinical skills by annually going through a prescribed number of hours of training depending on the specialty.

More than 140 nurses completed the 21 stations which took approximately seven hours and earned them 9.6 Clinical Education Units (CEUs), said Nanette Trent, head nurse of the Specialized Nursing Care Center (SNCC).

Trent coordinated the event which included teaching stations on Total Parenteral Nutrition; Blood Product Administration; Vascular Access Devices; The Zoll Monitor Defibrillation Cardioversion/Pacing; Performing 12 Lead EKG; Peg Tubes and Enteral Feeding; Tracheostomy Care and Suctioning; Diabetes Update and the Precision Glucometer; Chest Tube Care; Wound Vac and Wound Care; and the new Narcotic Worksheet.

"I'm always learning something new at these events," Trent said. "It's very beneficial."

Col. Doris Johnson, chief of the Medical Nursing Product Line, couldn't say enough great things about the job Trent had done bringing together all the instructors for the stations and putting the whole event together.

In addition to the stations, poster and video presentations were also available, Johnson said. "The stations are also a good opportunity to have our junior lieutenants teach."

"I think I have the greatest staff in the world," Johnson said.

1st Lt. Nicole Candy, a nurse on Tripler's Specialized Nursing Care Clinic, teaches a class to other nurses on Vascular Access Devices during annual Clinical Competency Evaluations at Tripler Oct. 9.

Tripler Pediatrics encourages flu shots for children

TAMC Department of Pediatrics

The American Academy of Pediatrics and the Centers For Disease Control in Atlanta have come out with a new recommendation for influenza vaccination for the 2002- 2003 winter season.

It has been recognized that children are the ones most likely to acquire influenza and also to spread influenza to others. Although children are less likely to succumb to influenza, young children, especially those under 24 months are more likely to require hospitalization due to pneumonia and high fevers. Adults who care for young children and elderly individuals who have contact with young children are also more likely to acquire influenza and to have more severe disease.

For these reasons, Tripler Army

Medical Center's Department of Pediatrics is encouraging all TAMC Pediatric families to have all children 6 months to 24 months of age come in for an influenza shot.

For children assigned to Tripler's Pediatric Clinic (fourth floor, F wing), flu shots will be given Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Wednesdays from 8 to 11:30 a.m. An appointment is not necessary.

For children assigned to Tripler's Family Practice Clinic (1st floor, D wing), flu shots are given Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m.

It is also recommended that all adults living in the household with a child less than 24 months old should receive the Influenza vaccine. Flu shots are available

for eligible military beneficiaries at Tripler's Allergy & Immunization Clinic (fourth floor, C wing) Tuesdays from 1 to 3 p.m., Wednesdays from 8 to 11:30 a.m. and Thursdays from 9 to 11:30 a.m.

As a reminder, this does not change the long standing recommendation that all children of any age (but more than 6 months) that suffer from a chronic illness such as Asthma, heart disease, kidney disease, immunosuppression or cancer should have an influenza shot every year.

In addition if you and your child are traveling this winter, it is a good idea to have a flu shot -- preferably now and not just prior to travel.

Please check with your primary care manager if you are in doubt whether your child should have one or not.



Sgt. Jose Ortega (sitting) watches a Tripler soldier disassemble an M-16 during CTT Oct. 25.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan

SKILLS CHECK

Tripler Army Medical Center soldiers conducted Common Task Training (CTT) and Semi-annual Combat Medic Skills Validation Testing (SACMS-VT) Oct. 15-25 on Tripler Hill. (Above) A group of Tripler soldiers assess a patient at a SACMS-VT task site. While all soldiers are required to complete CTT, only 91W are required to complete SACMS-VT, which included tasks such as extracting a patient from a vehicle and caring for a patient in an NBC (nuclear, biological, chemical) environment.



A soldier starts an IV on a mannequin as part of Semi-annual Combat Medic Skills Validation Testing.



Pfc. Kenny Duckworth of the Department of Radiology clears his protective mask as CTT instructor Staff Sgt. Elmer Ferguson keeps watch.

CE, CME now on-line

U.S. Army Medical Center and School

In accordance with the U.S. Army Surgeon General's commitment to energize the Army's movement to e-Business solutions, the Department of Learning Innovation & Technology at the U.S. Army Medical Center & School is pleased to announce the initiation of a fully accredited On-Line Continuing Education Program.

At no cost to the individual, the program will enable AMEDD personnel to access continuing medical education and continuing education from home, medical facility work stations, or anywhere Internet access is available.

To view the course catalog and register, go to <http://www.swankhealth.com>.

This program is currently available to all AMEDD active duty and civilian personnel. Reserve component personnel are authorized to access the training during their active duty status.

For additional information, contact Mary Griffith at mgriffith@swank.com or Sylvia Ritzel at sritzel@swank.com or call (800) 950-4248.



Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan

PT OPEN HOUSE

Maj. Christy Bigham, a physical therapist at Tripler, and Staff Sgt. Duwayne Chock, a physical therapy NCO, demonstrate how to correctly complete a range of motion exercise during the Physical Therapy Open House Oct. 31. The open house was held to celebrate National Physical Therapy Month.

NEX refill pharmacy now open for business

Margaret Tippy

TAMC Public Affairs Officer

With the untying of the maile lei, the newest addition to Tripler Army Medical Center's Department of Pharmacy opened at the world's largest Navy Exchange Mall Oct. 28th. The new Tri-service Consolidated Refill Pharmacy had 40 prescriptions ready for pick up, said Col. Dennis R. Beaudoin, chief of Tripler's Department of Pharmacy.

The Refill Pharmacy is located on the second floor of the mall. Patients should enter near the new Commissary entrance and take the escalator or elevator to the second floor for easy access.

Capt. Dixie Bray is the pharmacist in charge of the new pharmacy that is open six days a week from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and closed on Sundays.

"This is a great boon for the entire Department of Defense community of Oahu," said Mike Cottrell, district manager of the Navy Exchange - Hawaii.

"The three services made this happen - Tripler, Hickam and Pearl Harbor," said Tripler's Navy Capt. (Dr.) Richard Jeffries, acting commander and deputy commander for Clinical Services. "We have worked out a consolidated formula agreement on all pharmaceuticals we stock.

"We have increased access to care and we have good support all the way to the top of all three services," he said.

Jeffries emphasized that the Catlin Refill Pharmacy in the Navy Housing area is closed with the opening of the Mall Refill Pharmacy.

There is a drop-off lane near the first floor entrance for the convenience of the handicapped, and also handicapped parking stalls close by, Jeffries said.

Eventually, the mall will have 1,900 parking spaces, said Cottrell, who expects parking construction to be completed in early May 2003. The Refill Pharmacy is also scheduled to expand during the next year to include other services to the community.

A hairy situation

Environmental specialist donates locks to benefit sick children

Margaret Tippy

TAMC Public Affairs Officer

Claire Yee rides lots of elevators being on staff at Tripler Army Medical Center as an Environmental Protection specialist who works in the Department of Preventive Medicine on the seventh floor.

In the spring of 2001, she couldn't help but notice many patients from the Pediatric Ward which is also on the seventh floor — young people “in a blank stare wheeled alongside their IVs; some had already lost their hair, and I was thinking ... my life is so simple and uncomplicated compared to what they endured and will probably have to continue to endure,” Yee said.

Then she remembered the late Naomi Pai, another Tripler staff member, “who mentioned to me during one of her chemotherapy sessions how difficult it was for her to find Asian hair as a wig,” Yee said. Yee is of 100 percent Chinese ancestry.

“I asked around if anyone knew of a hair donation agency for pediatric cancer patients, and was finally referred to Dr. Pat Nishimoto (of Tripler Oncology),” she said smiling. She in turn referred Yee to Locks of Love in Lake Worth, Fla., at (888)896-1588 or www.locksoflove.com on the Internet.

The hair must be at least 10 inches long and not bleached to donate. Other criteria are listed on the web site or by listening to the recording at the toll-free number.

Locks of Love is a non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children under the age of 18 with medical hair loss, according to its press release. These cus-



Yee

tom-fitted hair prosthetics are provided free of charge or on a sliding scale to children whose families meet the Locks of Love Board of Directors guidelines. They have helped more than 800 children since 1997.

By Spring 2002, Yee had 11 inches of hair to bring her hair length back to her shoulders, “and I felt happy to call my stylist for an appointment for May.”

“Something came up at work, though,”

Yee said, “and I had to reschedule. The next appointment was seven weeks away. By the

time seven weeks was up, I was actually looking forward to cutting it.

“I told the stylist the agency only needed 10 inches — I actually told him twice,” she said laughing. “But my stylist had happy scissors that day and told me, ‘Sorry, honey, it’s going to be 14 inches and two bundles — see! Two children will be very happy.’”

“I knew he was right,” Yee said smiling when he showed her the hair. “Perhaps two children will have at least some dignity and be somewhat happy.”

Yee mailed the clean and dry hair placed in a plastic bag and a padded envelope to Locks of Love.

The ending recording when calling the Locks of Love toll-free number says it all, “Thank you for making a personal donation and touching a child’s life.” Yee’s generosity is helping two children.

Editor’s note: *Locks of Love’s mailing address is Locks of Love, 2925 10th Avenue N., Suite 102, Lake Worth, Fla., 33461.*

Right to privacy a HIPAA, TRICARE priority

DoD TRICARE Management Activity

As a beneficiary of the Department of Defense Military Health System (MHS) and TRICARE, one of the basic rights both service members and dependents have is the right to keep your healthcare information private.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 established healthcare standards or “privacy rules” that all U.S. military and civilian healthcare providers, hospitals and organizations are required to follow. These standards are meant to protect the privacy of health care information from unauthorized disclosure or use.

TRICARE will implement the new privacy rules April 14, 2003.

Under HIPAA privacy rules, the MHS is required to inform people how their personal healthcare information is used, pro-

vide guidance on privacy rights, and limit use and disclosure of personal health care information to the minimum required.

To increase beneficiary awareness regarding these new privacy rules, a copy of the MHS Notice of Privacy Practices will be sent to each TRICARE sponsor in November 2002. Beneficiaries will be asked to acknowledge receipt of this privacy notice during their first scheduled appointment after April 14, 2003, at their local military treatment facility (MTF).

“The MHS has always had privacy and patient confidentiality standards in place to limit unauthorized access or disclosure of personal healthcare information,” said Navy Cmdr. Sam Jenkins, HIPAA privacy project officer, TRICARE Management Activity. “These new privacy rules provide TRICARE beneficiaries with additional safeguards for ensuring their healthcare information is adequately protected and

appropriately used by the MHS and TRICARE to provide quality patient care.”

Permissible uses of healthcare information include treatment, payment for services provided and operations, such as patient billing or appointment scheduling.

Under the privacy rules, beneficiaries have the right to receive a notice of MHS privacy practices from the MTF; access, review and receive a copy of your personal medical record or healthcare information on file at the MTF; request a change or correct an error in your medical record; know how, when and to who your medical information is disclosed; file a grievance with the MTF regarding a privacy concern; and provide written instructions on your personal preferences regarding use and disclosure of your personal health information.

A copy of the MHS Notice of Privacy Practices is on the TRICARE website at www.tricare.osd.mil/hipaa.

Tripler rates high on unannounced inspection

Heather Paynter

TAMC Public Affairs Office

An unplanned inspection conducted by an official from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on Oct. 8 determined that Tripler Army Medical Center rates above 99 percent of facilities that handle radioactive materials. The NRC inspector also commented that Tripler was the best he had seen in his 13 years of reviewing an extensive series of sites using radioactive materials.

Maj. Arthur Morton, chief of the Health Physics Section, guided the NRC official through much of the inspection and attributes his department's success to the Health Physics Section staff.

"The attention to detail, training and command support may have been what set

our institution apart from some of the other facilities he has inspected," Morton said. "I am honored to be working at a great institution with some very remarkable people."

During the past year, the Health Physics staff took on some new responsibilities when Tripler was upgraded to a Type A Broadscope license last September. The license allows for the support of 30 radiation therapy patients, radiation safety training for more than 1,000 workers and allows for approximately 5,000 samples to be analyzed in the radioanalysis laboratory.

"(The license) gives the institution the flexibility and authority to perform many changes," he said. "Changes in use locations, personnel and radioactive isotopes can be performed in a very timely manner with the approval of the Radiation

Safety Committee."

The inspector looked at the safety of radioactive materials and asked about package delivery and receipt procedures. He also asked about the department's training program, said Morton.

"He liked that we inspected records, recorded deficiencies and basically conducted an ongoing mini-audit of (departments)," Morton said.

Inspections from the NRC are typically some of the most rigorous reviews performed by an agency of the federal government, according to Col. Glenn Wasserman, chief of Tripler's Preventive Medicine Department.

"This is definitely unique and reflects the dedicated, responsible work of this team of health professionals," Wasserman said.

THE WINNERS CIRCLE

Promotions

Maj. Mark Bonica

Maj. Joy Rexford

Awards

Lt. Col. Susan Smith - Meritorious Service Medal

Maj. Matthew Rettke - MSM

Maj. Michael Wegner - MSM

Staff Sgt. Tonya Johnson - MSM

John Szabo - 25-year service pin

Alan New - 20-year service pin

Reenlistments

Spc. Aletha Davis

Sgt. Casey Nicholas

Spc. Brian Glass

Sgt. Rafael Soto

Sgt. Hazel Tomikawa

Sgt. Dwight Kioshi

Staff Sgt. Jason Santo

Colonel promotion list selectees

Lt. Col. Susan Denny

Lt. Col. Michelle Janosik

Lt. Col. Teresa Parsons

Lt. Col. Edmond Haraguchi

Lt. Col. Thomas Dove

Lt. Col. Susan Fraser

Lt. Col. Arthur Kane

Lt. Col. Kevin Mork

Lt. Col. Robert Pedersen

Lt. Col. Richard Stack

Lt. Col. Ronald Sutherland

NEW BULLDOG IN TOWN

Col. Paul Wingo passes the Medical Company B guidon to incoming commander Capt. Sean A. McMurtry during a change of command ceremony Oct. 29. McMurtry previously served with the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Carson, Colo. Outgoing Commander Capt. Gregory Punch is leaving Hawaii to attend the Combined Logistics Captains Course in Fort Lee, Va.



Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan

Provost Marshal receives law enforcement honor

Heather Paynter

TAMC Public Affairs Office

Donald Devaney, Tripler's Provost Marshal, attended the Top Cop ceremony at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel Oct. 16, with the intent of offering support and congratulations to the Top Cop from Tripler Army Medical Center, Michael Ballesteros.

Little did he realize he would receive an honor of his own — The Bronze Order of the Marechaussee, an award dating back more than 200 years. Devaney has the distinct honor of being the 96th person to receive the medal along with a framed parchment certificate.

"Even though this award is over 200 years old, it only has been resurrected in recent years, and I look at it to be similar to the prestige of being a member of the Order of Military Medical Merit," Devaney said.

Devaney has worked in law enforcement for 48 years and has been provost marshal at Tripler since 1984. During this time, he has seen numerous military personnel, civilians, department chiefs and many others come and go. Additionally, his most memorable experiences run the gamut from assisting with a presidential visit to helping Santa find Tripler each Christmas.

Devaney helped to provide protective services with the U.S. Secret Service when President Clinton visited Hawaii and again when the vice president's spouse, Tipper Gore, visited Tripler. He also cites the hospital's assistance during wars and campaigns in Panama, Grenada, the Pacific Rim and the Gulf as high-lights in his 18 years here.

Other memorable occurrences did not receive such international attention.

"On the mundane side, finding a



Devaney

\$15,000 diamond ring underneath a trash can after everybody had written it off as stolen, was a happy ending to a crisis," he remembers.

"Meeting and hosting lunch with the grandson of General Tripler himself was certainly memorable."

He also recalls seeing the first robots deliver pills and food and lists that as another important milestone while serving at Tripler.

In his position at Tripler, Devaney and his team are responsible for more than many might think. "Being provost marshal means protecting people and property," he said. "That includes staff, volunteers, patients and visitors as well as equipment, supplies, medical records and personal property."

"It is a big responsibility that requires teamwork that we commonly refer to as the Tripler/VA (Veteran's Administration) ohana," he said.

Devaney served in the Army at several locations including Okinawa and Vietnam. "My Army service covered 30 years culminating as the command sergeant major of an Army major command, the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command," he said.

Though he has worked in several high-profile positions, according to Devaney, the best thing about working in his profession is helping people in need. "Most police work is helping the community as opposed to fighting major crime," he said. "It is an opportunity to give an assist or lend a helping hand in most instances and, over the long run, that brings satisfaction."



Heather Paynter

THANKS

Chilean Adm. Contraalmirante Daniel Arellano presents a gift to Col. Johnnie Tillman, Tripler Army Medical Center's deputy commander for readiness. Arellano visited Tripler Oct. 31 to thank Tripler staff for the care given to the Chilean sailor that was hospitalized here during the Rim of the Pacific Exercise (RIMPAC) 2002 that took place in June and July.

Army 10-Miler finishers

Congratulations to **Capt. Michelle Ripka** and **Sgt. 1st Class Carmen Vega** of Tripler, whose team placed fourth out of 23 teams in the Military Open Women's category of the 2002 Army Ten-Miler Oct. 20 in Washington, D.C.

Vega, an NCO with the Physical Therapy Section, led the six-member 25th Infantry Division (Light) team with a time of 1:07:44, and finished fourth in her 35-39 age group. Ripka, an ER nurse, finished with a time of 1:10:32.

About 12,000 people participated in the 18th annual event, which began and ended at the Pentagon.



NEWS BRIEFS

Psychology Dept. needs volunteers for study — Tripler Army Medical Center's Department of Psychology is looking for volunteers to take part in a study involving the use of videoconferencing for cognitive testing.

The purpose of the study is to test the use of video and phone technology to provide cognitive testing to people in remote locations, where local services may not be available.

Involvement in the study would include participating in two testing sessions, which should last about 90 minutes each. The tests will be used for research purposes only, and volunteers will not be given feedback on their test scores. In order to volunteer, participants must be between 20 and 65 years old and eligible for care at Tripler.

For more information about the study or to volunteer, call 433-9030.

Tripler Holiday Ball to be held Dec. 6 — Tripler's annual Holiday Ball will be held Dec. 6 at the Renaissance Ilikai Hotel in Waikiki. Tickets are \$35 for E-6/GS6 and below and \$40 for E-7/GS7 and above.

The following personnel are points of contact for those interested in attending:

1st Lt. Ann Weibley - Schofield Barracks Health Clinic; **1st Lt. Ometeriss Parker** - Operating Room; **Staff Sgt. Melissa McCullough** - Ward 6C1; **Theresa Howard** - Department of Medicine; and **Karen Koizumi**, Department of Nursing.

Toastmasters invites new members — Those looking to improve their public speaking and presentation skills are invited to attend Toastmaster meetings. The group meets the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 4:30 p.m. in Tripler's Department of Nursing conference room.

For more information, call Lt. Col. Paulette Williams at 433-2382.

NCI looking for volunteers to take part in study — The National Cancer Institute (NCI) and NLST-Hawaii are seeking volunteers to take part in the National Lung Screening Trial (NLST).



Staff Sgt. Michelle J. Rowan

TRICK OR TREAT

AnnMarie Dela Pena (left), information management supervisor, hands out treats to Olivia Cody (center) and Cheyenne Garcia (right), both patients on Tripler's Pediatric Ward. With a few staff members in tow, the two, along with other costumed inpatients, patrolled Tripler's hallways in search of goodies Oct. 31.

The trial is a nationwide study of Americans aged 55 to 74 who have a history of long-time and/or heavy smoking.

NLST will compare two ways of detecting lung cancer: spiral computed tomography (CT) and standard chest X-ray. Both chest X-rays and spiral CT scans have been used to find lung cancer early. So far, neither chest X-rays nor spiral CT scans has been shown to reduce a person's chance of dying from lung cancer. This study will aim to show if either test is better at reducing deaths from this disease.

For more information, call NLST-Hawaii at 522-4760.

Troop Command sponsors bowling tournament — Troop Command will hold a bowling tournament Nov. 27 at the Hickam Bowling Center.

The tournament, which will begin at 1 p.m., is open to four-bowler teams for a 3-game series. Tourney is limited to first 30 teams to complete entry forms and submit payment.

Cost is \$20 per bowler. All proceeds will benefit Army Community Services' Christmas Basket Program.

For more information or to sign up, contact company commanders or first sergeants. Entry forms are also available on the intranet under upcoming events.

Free exercise classes offered at Tripler gym — Tripler's Community Health Nursing section offers free, lunchtime exercise classes every Tuesday and Thursday at Tripler's Physical Fitness Center.

The classes run from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and are open to all DoD ID cardholders.

The following is a list of scheduled classes:

Dec. 5 -- Basic strength training
Dec. 10 -- Kickboxing
Dec. 12 -- Powerwalking
Dec. 17 -- Massage and relaxation
Dec. 19 -- Kickboxing
Dec. 31 -- Fitness ball

For more information, call 433-6834.